

SUPPORT PROJECT

The **SUPPORT project – Supported Employment for Reducing Long-Term Unemployment among Persons with Disabilities** is a European initiative funded by the European Union. Its main objective is to **reduce long-term unemployment among people with disabilities**, especially those with intellectual disabilities or other vulnerabilities.

1. Objectives.

SUPPORT aims to:

- **Facilitate access to employment in the regular labor market for people with disabilities.**
- Apply an **innovative model of Supported Employment and Supported Learning**, prioritizing immediate labor market insertion with ongoing support, rather than prolonged pre-employment training.
- **Improve cooperation** between employers, service providers, public administrations, and civil society organizations.
- **Raise awareness and enhance institutional recognition** of supported employment and accessibility to the labor market.
- Ensure the sustainability of the impact by ensuring that the innovations of the project are maintained after its completion.
- Strengthen the visibility of both the consortium and each partner organization involved.

2. Target groups.

The project primarily targets:

- **People with disabilities who are unemployed.**
- **Companies and human resources departments.**
- **Providers of labor inclusion services.**
- **Political stakeholders at local, national, and European levels.**
- **Families, representative organizations, and the general public.**

3. Consortium and European Reach.

SUPPORT brings together **16 partners from 10 European countries**, including associations, labor insertion entities, European platforms, foundations, and organizations specializing in disability and employment.

It includes reference networks in **Belgium, Spain, Greece, Romania, Croatia, Austria, Italy, Norway, among others, ensuring a transnational impact and the transfer of good practices.**

3.1. Main Partners and Strategic Roles.

- **European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD) – Belgium.**
European reference network for services for people with disabilities. Leads the institutional visibility of the project and hosts the official website.
- **European Platform for Rehabilitation (EPR) – Belgium.**
Responsible for the Communication, Dissemination, and Impact Plan. Coordinates the communication strategy, visual identity, dissemination materials, and the project's Dissemination Committee.
- **Association for Supported Employment Europe (ASEE) – Belgium.**
Key player in promoting and transferring the Supported Employment model across Europe.
- **Zero Project – Austria.**
International high-impact platform specialized in innovation and good practices in disability and inclusion, responsible for amplifying the results of the project globally.

3.2. Consortium Partners.

In addition to the main partners, the project includes the following organizations:

| Organization | Country |
|---|---------|
| Fundación Intermedia | Spain |
| Asociación Española de empleo con Apoyo (AESE) | Spain |
| Ergastiri Eidikis Agogis “MARGARITA” | Greece |
| Alaturi de Voi Romania Foundation (ADV Romania) | Romania |
| Synkroon | Belgium |
| Gespecialiseerd Team Bemiddeling (GTB) | Belgium |
| Asociación Europea para la Democracia Local (ALDA) | Spain |
| ACT Group | Croatia |
| Out of the Box International (OTB) | Belgium |
| FunkWeb Kompetanse | Norway |
| Zentrum für Sozialwirtschaft GmbH (ZfSw) | Austria |
| Associazione Italiana per l’Assistenza agli Spastici – AIAS Bologna | Italy |

4. Methodological Approach.

The intervention is based on:

| Pillar | Description |
|---|--|
| Supported Employment | Direct placement in a real job with job coach support and job adaptation. |
| Supported Learning | Personalized training within the job or directly related to the position. |
| Individual Professional Development Plan | A living document that guides skill improvement, retention, and career growth. |
| Multisectoral Collaboration | Territorial networks with public services, businesses, and specialized entities. |

Additionally, training materials, tools for service providers, and **specific guidelines for businesses** will be created, including information on funding and reasonable adjustments.

5. Key Activities.

Project’s key actions include:

- **Identification and recruitment of unemployed people with disabilities.**
- **Professional training (“Train the Trainers”) and national replication.**
- **Awareness-raising activities and engagement with employers.**

- **Creation of accessible digital resources**, videos, and informational materials.
- **Participation in high-impact European events** and specialized conferences.
- Creation of **Country Sheets**, guides on grants, policy recommendations, and dissemination of results.

6. Communication, Dissemination and Impact.

The project will develop an **inclusive communication** strategy based on:

- A website and accessible results repository
 - Social media (LinkedIn as the main channel).
 - Real-life stories and impact evidence.
 - Specific messages for each audience.
 - Quantitative indicators of reach and engagement.
- ✓ The plan will be **evaluated and updated every 6 months**.
- ✓ A **Dissemination Committee** will coordinate communication among partners.

7. Expected Impact.

The project aspires to:

- **Significantly reduce long-term unemployment in the target group**.
- Foster more diverse and inclusive companies.
- Influence **public policies and regulatory frameworks** that improve labor inclusion.
- Generate useful knowledge transferable to other countries and sectors.
- **Empower people with disabilities** by increasing their autonomy, presence, and stability in the labor market.

8. Conclusion.

SUPPORT is an ambitious European project, focused on direct action and social transformation. It advocates **for a faster, more accessible, and person-centered model of labor inclusion**, strengthening networks, raising employer awareness, and providing lasting tools for the future.